

National Counterterrorism Center



Russell E. Travers Acting Director of NCTC

Russell “Russ” Travers took office as the Acting Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) on Aug. 16, 2019. Serving as Deputy Director since Nov. 13, 2017, he previously served as Acting Director during the confirmation process for Joe Maguire Dec. 2017 to Dec. 2018. Mr. Travers also held other leadership positions within NCTC between 2015 and 2017, including Senior Counselor to the Director, Acting Director of the Office of Data Strategy and Innovation, and the Chief Data Officer for both NCTC and ODNI.

Between 2013 and 2015, Mr. Travers served as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Transnational Threat Integration and Information Sharing on the National Security Council. He focused on government-wide improvements in border security and information sharing, and applying lessons learned from U.S. government counterterrorism efforts to other transnational threats. Prior to this assignment, he served as the National Intelligence Council’s Senior Executive for Transnational Organized Crime from 2011 to 2013, where he organized intelligence community analytic support to the National Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime.

Mr. Travers served on the leadership team that stood up the Terrorist Threat Integration Center and the NCTC. From 2003 to 2010 he was Deputy Director for Information Sharing and Knowledge Development, during which time he focused on post-9/11 improvements. Mr. Travers oversaw the development of the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, NCTC’s database of known and suspected terrorists, as well as improvements in watchlisting, information sharing, and advanced analytic techniques.

He has also served tours as Deputy Director for Policy Support at the Defense Intelligence Agency; the Defense Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces; the Senior Civilian Advisor to the Director for Intelligence, J2, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the Defense Intelligence Liaison to British Intelligence in London. He began his career as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army in 1978.

Mr. Travers received Bachelor of Arts degrees in government and economics from the College of William and Mary. He has a Master’s in Business Administration, and a Juris Doctor from the National Law Center at George Washington University. He has received numerous awards, including both the Distinguished, and the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Awards.

